

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 5 and 7-22, and add claims 23-42 as shown in the following listing of claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1 Claims 1-22 (canceled).

1 23. (new) A method for creating and using grids on a computer operating
2 environment, said method comprising:
3 activating a grid feature of said computer operating environment to
4 create a first grid;
5 drawing a diagonal line on said computer operating environment in
6 response to user input to create said first grid, the dimensions of said first grid being
7 determined by the height and width of said diagonal line; and
8 displaying said first grid on said computer operating environment as a
9 graphic object in response to said user input, said first grid including a plurality of
10 parallel lines along a first direction and at least one line along a second direction to
11 intersect at least one of said parallel lines, said first grid being configured to be
12 modifiable with respect to size, said first grid further being configured to be movable
13 on said computer operating environment.

1 24. (new) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
2 drawing another diagonal line on said computer operating environment
3 in response to another user input to create a second grid, the dimensions of said
4 second grid being determined by the height and width of said another diagonal line;
5 displaying said second grid on said computer operating environment as
6 another graphic object in response to said another user input;
7 moving said first grid over a portion of said second grid in response to
8 additional user input of dragging said first grid; and
9 automatically snapping said first grid to said second grid when said
10 first grid is released to create a customized composite grid on said computer operating
11 environment.

1 25. (new) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
2 displaying a menu with selections to change the horizontal spacing and
3 the vertical spacing of said first grid; and
4 graphically changing at least one of said horizontal spacing and said
5 vertical spacing of said first grid in response to a user command entered in at least
6 one of said selections of said menu without closing said menu.

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1 26. (new) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
2 providing a graphic object on said computer operating environment,
3 said graphic object including a plurality of align points and a plurality of hot spots;
4 moving said graphic object over said first grid in response to user input
5 of dragging said graphic object using a particular hot spot of said graphic object; and
6 automatically snapping said graphic object to said first grid using a
7 particular align point of said graphic object, said particular align point being
8 determined by said particular hot spot used to move said graphic object.

1 27. (new) The method of claim 26 further comprising displaying a visual indicator
2 of said particular align point of said graphic object only when said graphic object is
3 moved over said first grid.

1 28. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein said displaying said visual indicator
2 includes displaying a circle around said particular align point of said graphic object.

1 29. (new) The method of claim 26 further comprising displaying a visual indicator
2 at a snap position on said first grid only when said graphic object is moved over said
3 first grid, said snap position being a location on said first grid onto which said
4 particular align point of said graphic object will be snapped if said graphic object is
5 released.

1 30. (new) The method of claim 29 wherein said displaying said visual indicator
2 includes displaying a thickened portion of said first grid at said snap position.

1 31. (new) The method of claim 26 wherein said moving said graphic object over
2 said first grid includes moving said graphic object over said first grid without
3 apparent jumps during the movement of said graphic object over said first grid.

1 32. (new) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
2 drawing another diagonal line on a canvas of a visual display and
3 control canvas (VDACC) object in response to another user input to create a second
4 grid, the dimensions of said second grid being determined by the height and width of
5 said another diagonal line; and
6 displaying said second grid on said canvas of said VDACC object as
7 another graphic object in response to said another user input.

1 33. (new) A storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a
2 program of instructions executable by said computer to perform method steps for
3 creating and using grids on a computer operating environment, said method steps
4 comprising:
5 activating a grid feature of said computer operating environment to
6 create a first grid;
7 drawing a diagonal line on said computer operating environment in
8 response to user input to create said first grid, the dimensions of said first grid being
9 determined by the height and width of said diagonal line; and
10 displaying said first grid on said computer operating environment as a
11 graphic object in response to said user input, said first grid including a plurality of
12 parallel lines along a first direction and at least one line along a second direction to
13 intersect at least one of said parallel lines, said first grid being configured to be
14 modifiable with respect to size, said first grid further being configured to be movable
15 on said computer operating environment.

1 34. (new) The storage medium of claim 33 wherein said method steps further
2 comprise:
3 drawing another diagonal line on said computer operating environment
4 in response to another user input to create a second grid, the dimensions of said
5 second grid being determined by the height and width of said another diagonal line;
6 displaying said second grid on said computer operating environment as
7 another graphic object in response to said another user input;
8 moving said first grid over a portion of said second grid in response to
9 additional user input of dragging said first grid; and
10 automatically snapping said first grid to said second grid when said
11 first grid is released to create a customized composite grid on said computer operating
12 environment.

1 35. (new) The storage medium of claim 33 wherein said method steps further
2 comprise:
3 displaying a menu with selections to change the horizontal spacing and
4 the vertical spacing of said first grid; and
5 graphically changing at least one of said horizontal spacing and said
6 vertical spacing of said first grid in response to a user command entered in at least
7 one of said selections of said menu without closing said menu.

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1 36. (new) The storage medium of claim 33 wherein said method steps further
2 comprise:
3 providing a graphic object on said computer operating environment,
4 said graphic object including a plurality of align points and a plurality of hot spots;
5 moving said graphic object over said first grid in response to user input
6 of dragging said graphic object using a particular hot spot of said graphic object; and
7 automatically snapping said graphic object to said first grid using a
8 particular align point of said graphic object, said particular align point being
9 determined by said particular hot spot used to move said graphic object.

1 37. (new) The storage medium of claim 33 wherein said method steps further
2 comprise displaying a visual indicator of said particular align point of said graphic
3 object only when said graphic object is moved over said first grid.

1 38. (new) The storage medium of claim 37 wherein said displaying said visual
2 indicator includes displaying a circle around said particular align point of said graphic
3 object.

1 39. (new) The storage medium of claim 36 wherein said method steps further
2 comprise displaying a visual indicator at a snap position on said first grid only when
3 said graphic object is moved over said first grid, said snap position being a location
4 on said first grid onto which said particular align point of said graphic object will be
5 snapped if said graphic object is released.

1 40. (new) The storage medium of claim 39 wherein said displaying said visual
2 indicator includes displaying a thickened portion of said first grid at said snap
3 position.

1 41. (new) The storage medium of claim 36 wherein said moving said graphic
2 object over said first grid includes moving said graphic object over said first grid
3 without apparent jumps during the movement of said graphic object over said first
4 grid.

1 42. (new) The storage medium of claim 33 wherein said method steps further
2 comprise:
3 drawing another diagonal line on a canvas of a visual display and
4 control canvas (VDACC) object in response to another user input to create a second
5 grid, the dimensions of said second grid being determined by the height and width of
6 said another diagonal line; and
7 displaying said second grid on said canvas of said VDACC object as
8 another graphic object in response to said another user input.